GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2369
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Policy on Agricultural Labourers
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Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a)whether there is any proposal to implement National policy on Agricultural labourers in the country and if so, the details and salient features thereof;
(b)if not, the reasons therefor;
(c)whether the agricultural labourers constitute over 50/60 per cent of the total work force in the country;
(d)if so, the percentage of agricultural labourers, who do not get sustainable level of employment throughout the year; and
(e)the steps taken by the Government to provide employment to all agricultural workers/labourers in the country or employment through diversification throughout the year?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)
(a) & (b): There is no such policy on Agricultural Labourers. However, the Government has already enacted 'Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008' for the welfare of unorganised workers including agricultural labourers. The Act provides for formulation of suitable welfare schemes for unorganised workers on matters relating to: (i) life and disability cover, (ii) health and maternity benefits, (iii) old age protection and (iv) any other benefit as may be determined by the Central Government through the National Social Security Board.

(c): As per the Worker Census 2011, the number of total workers in the agriculture sector, comprising of cultivators and agricultural labourers, is 26,31,42,470 against the total workforce of 48,18,88,868, which constitute 54.61% of the total workforce in the country.
(d) & (e): The Government of India has enacted Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 that aims to ensure livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.
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